

HB 302 -- LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

SPONSOR: Hill

This bill specifies that a person who intentionally targets a law enforcement officer because of the actual or perceived status of the victim as a law enforcement officer, whether on or off duty, is guilty of a class A felony and is not eligible for suspended imposition or execution of sentence, or is not eligible for parole or conditional release until the offender has served at least 10 years in prison.

The bill also establishes the Blue Alert System to aid in the identification, location, and apprehension of any individual or individuals suspected of killing or seriously injuring a local, state, or federal law enforcement officer. The Department of Public Safety will coordinate with local law enforcement agencies and public commercial television and radio broadcasters to effectively implement the system. Participation is entirely optional for local law enforcement agencies and federally licensed radio and television broadcasters, but the program will include at least: the Department of Public Safety, Highway Patrol, Department of Transportation, and Missouri Lottery. Knowingly making a false report that triggers an alert is a class A misdemeanor.

The bill also establishes the Blue Alert System Oversight Committee, which will develop criteria and procedures for the "Blue Alert System." The committee will be housed in the Department of Public Safety. The bill specifies how many members the committee will have, what entities will be represented, and the length of the terms members will serve.